AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete page 2, line 17.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- A first aspect of the present invention provides a combination measuring device for respectively accommodating objects in a plurality of containers, performing combination calculation by measuring weights of the objects accommodated in the containers, discharging from the containers the objects selected as an optimum combination, collecting the selected objects, and thereby obtaining the weighed objects having a target weight. This combination measuring device includes a plurality of measuring units and calculating means. Each of the measuring units has measuring means and stock means. The measuring means measures the weight of the object accommodated in the container. The stock means stocks the plurality of containers accommodating the weighed objects. The calculating means performs the combination calculation by using weight values of all the objects stocked by the stock means of each of the measuring units, selecting at most one container from each of the measuring units, and thereby obtaining the optimum combination. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the first aspect of the present invention, the device includes the calculating means for obtaining the optimum combination by selecting, at most, one container from each measuring unit, and it is merely required to discharge the object from only one container in each of the measuring units when collecting the objects in the containers from the respective measuring units. Therefore, the objects in the respective containers in the optimum combination can be collected fast and easily. Thus, the time required for completely discharging the objects from the respective containers in the optimum combination in response to one combination calculation operation can be equal to the time (collecting time) allocated to one container in an operation of successively collecting containers of the

optimum combination disclosed in the patent reference 1. Therefore, fast measurement can be performed. Further, each measuring unit can stock the plurality of containers for using them in the combination calculation so that the device can ensure a high measurement accuracy while performing fast measurement. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to a second aspect of the present invention, the combination measuring device of the first aspect ~~invention~~ further has such a structure that the stock means stocks the containers in a longitudinal direction. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 2 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the second aspect of the present invention, since the stock means stocks the plurality of containers in the longitudinal direction, the measurement accuracy can be ensured, and a planar area occupied by the combination measuring device can be small. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to a third aspect of the present invention, the combination measuring device of the first or second aspect ~~invention~~ further has a collecting portion. There is only one collecting portion provided for the plurality of measuring units. Each of the measuring units is configured to be able to discharge the object from only one container at a time to the collecting portion. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, the combination measuring device of the third aspect ~~invention~~ further has such a feature that each of the measuring units further has transferring means. The transferring means receives the container from the stock

means, and transfers the object accommodated in the container to the collecting portion. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, the combination measuring device of the fourth aspect ~~invention~~ further has such a feature that the transferring means has first drive means for transferring the container, and second drive means for rotating the container. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the combination measuring device of the fifth aspect ~~invention~~, the second drive means rotates the container to take out the object from the container, and the first drive means moves the container. Thereby, the transferring means can rapidly take out the object from the container. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20 with the following rewritten version:

-- A combination calculation method according to a sixth aspect of the present invention includes a measuring step, a storing step and a calculating step. In the measuring step, weights of objects in a plurality of containers are measured. In the storing step, a plurality of weight values are stored corresponding to each of the respective containers. In the calculating step, combination calculation is performed based on the plurality of weight values stored in the storing step to obtain an optimum combination. In the calculating step, the optimum combination is obtained while taking account to which group each of the plurality of weight values belongs to, such that at most one weight value is selected from each of the groups. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 28 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the sixth aspect of the present invention, even when the combination measuring device that performs combination calculation and discharges objects according to the optimum combination has a structure in which objects cannot be discharged from a plurality of containers at a time at each of the groups (e.g., a structure in which the number of discharge portions is minimized to reduce a required space, or an inexpensive, space-saving structure in which only one special mechanism for fast discharging is provided for each group), since only one weight value at most can be selected from each of the groups while obtaining the optimum combination, discharge of objects from the containers of each group can be performed quickly. The number of the groups and/or the number of weight values (containers) belonging to each group may be set to appropriate values so that lowering of the measurement accuracy can be suppressed. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- The revolving mechanism 40 (an example of the first drive mechanism) is a mechanism for revolving the container 102 accommodating the object in a vertical plane around a revolving shaft 43. The revolving mechanism 40 is primarily formed of a revolving member 44 attached to the revolving shaft 43, and a revolving motor (shown in Fig. 5) M1 arranged within the casing 42 for driving the revolving shaft 43. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9 with the following rewritten version:

-- As shown in Fig. 2, the rotary portions 41a, 41b and 41c (an example of the second drive mechanism) are mechanisms for rotating the containers 102 accommodating the objects, and are formed in the vicinities of ends of three arm members 44a, 44b and 44c, which constitute the revolving member 44. The rotary portions 41a, 41b and 41c are controlled independently of each other by rotary motors M2, M3 and M4 (see Fig. 5) arranged within the casing 42. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- The control portion 50 performs the combination calculation. According to this combination calculation, the combination of the containers 102 is determined such that a sum of the measured weights of the selected objects in the containers 102 falls within a predetermined range. As a distinctive feature, the control portion 50 selects, at most, one container 102 from each of the measuring units 1, 2, 3 and 4 (an example of the groups to which the containers 102 belong), and discharges the selected containers 102 from the stock portions 22 of the measuring units 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the discharge portions 23. When the stock portion 22 discharges the container 102 to the discharge portion 23, the selector lever 34a, 34b, 34c, 34d or 34e arranged in the layer 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d or 30e, in which the selected container 102 is present, is driven as shown in Fig. 3, which shows by way of example the operation of the selector lever 34a. Then, the control portion 50 controls the transfer device 24 to discharge the objects from the containers 102 to the discharge chutes 1a, 2a, 3a and 4a. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 29 with the following rewritten version:

-- Since the maximum number of the container 102 that can be selected from each of the measuring units 1, 2, 3 and 4 in one combination calculating operation is restricted to one, the time required for receiving the results of the one combination calculating operation and discharging the objects of the predetermined weight can be reduced to ~~only~~ the time (collecting time) it would take to collect from only one container 102 in an operation of a conventional device in which objects are successively collected from the selected containers 102. This enables even faster measurement. --

Please delete page 12, line 18.

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten version:

-- The invention provides a combination measuring device allows fast measurement without lowering a measurement accuracy. The combination measuring device ~~respectively~~ accommodates objects ~~(101)~~ in a plurality of containers ~~(102)~~, performs combination calculation by measuring weights of the objects accommodated in the containers, discharging and collecting the objects selected for an optimum combination from the containers, and thereby obtaining the weighed objects having a target weight. This combination measuring device includes a plurality of measuring units ~~(1, 2, 3 and 4)~~, and a control portion ~~(50)~~. Each of the measuring units ~~(1, 2, 3 and 4)~~ has a measuring portion ~~(21)~~ for measuring the weight of the object accommodated in the container, and a stock portion ~~(22)~~ for stocking the ~~plurality of~~ containers accommodating the weighed objects. The control portion ~~(50)~~ performs the combination calculation by using weight values of all the objects stocked by the stock portions ~~portion~~ of all ~~each~~ of the measuring units, while selecting zero or at most one container from each of the measuring units~~, and thereby obtaining the optimum combination~~. --